

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/755,530

Examiner

David A. Rogers

Applicant(s)

KUEHN, TORSTEN

Art Unit

2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12 September 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 20050801
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Thomas Blankenship, attorney-of-record, was contacted on 05 December 2005 to discuss amending the claims in order to better define the apparatus and process. It was noted that claim 5 required a test body that was only adapted to have a pre-defined amount of moisture and that any test body having polyimide material is inherently adapted to have a pre-defined amount of moisture absorbed therein/thereon. The invention is better defined using a test body having a pre-defined amount of moisture as opposed to merely being adapted to have the pre-defined amount of moisture. Claim 12 was cancelled as it was directed to a process related to how moisture is removably absorbed onto the test body. Claim 13 was amended to positively recite the test body as being a reusable body as opposed to a process-style step. Finally, claim 19 was amended to positively recite a process step as opposed to having an apparatus-style claim.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone call from Thomas Blankenship on 08 December 2005. The application has been amended as follows:

Amend claims 5, 12, 13, and 19 as follows:

5. An integrity testing system for leak-tightness testing systems, which are adapted in turn for determining or testing whether a canister or other sealed, hollow body filled with a liquid or gas under pressure is leaky, where such leak-tightness testing systems employ a vacuum chamber and any change in pressure within the vacuum chamber is monitored, the integrity testing system comprising:

a test body (20) having a pre-determined amount of removably absorbed moistness ~~adapted to removably absorb a defined amount of moistness,~~ and the vacuum chamber (30) of the leak-tightness testing system[.];

wherein at least a portion of the test body is exposed to the vacuum chamber[.];

whereby moisture is removed from the test body when a vacuum is generated in the vacuum chamber, the removed moisture producing a pressure increase in the vacuum chamber over a pre-determined time span.

12. (Cancelled)

13. The integrity testing system as recited in claim 5, wherein the test body is a re-useable test body can be re-used.

19. The process of claim 14, wherein the test body is ~~adapted to absorb~~ the a-defined amount of moistness from the ambient atmosphere before being placed in the vacuum chamber.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 5-22 are allowed.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Rogers whose telephone number is (571) 272-2205. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (0730 - 1600).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron E. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2856

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

darr

12 December 2005



HEZRON WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800